

The Miracle of Jesus and the Nails: Old Testament Version

You know that nails were quite valuable back in ancient days. In fact, the Jew who owned the top of the hill where they were going to crucify Jesus charged the three Roman soldiers 10 nails each for passage into the crucifixion area. Even though, after paying the hillkeeper, they were plumb out of nails, the soldiers marched Jesus and his cross up the hill. They figured that, with Jesus, they could expect a miracle and that God would provide.

Well a miracle did occur. The hillkeeper had a change of heart when he realized he had overcharged the Romans by five nails. He gave his assistant five nails with instructions to give them back to the Romans.

The assistant, however, couldn't figure out how to divide five nails up between the three Romans and so, feeling he was underpaid for his work anyway, he pocketed two and gave each of the Romans back one nail.

As expected, God had worked a miracle and had provided the three nails they would need for the task ahead.

The problem was that each of the Roman soldiers had paid 10 nails, for a total of 30 nails. Then they each had gotten back one nail. That means that, in the end, they each paid nine nails. Three times nine is 27. Plus the two in the assistant's pocket is 29. What happened to the other nail?

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Each soldier paid ten nails and received one back. So, they each paid nine nails. Three times nine equals 27, plus the three they got back equals the 30 original nails they started with. So far, so good. However, when you add in the two in the assistant's pocket, that brings the total to 32. Where did the two extra nails come from?

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